

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing messages, comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message by a computer;

determining, by the computer, ~~whether~~ which of the following mutually exclusive conditions is true: (1) a content of the received message is [[(1)]] intended to be read or viewed by a user, [[or]] and (2) the content of the received message provides an instruction to an attached printing device associated with the computer, by detecting a characteristic of the message, wherein the content of the received message does not include print data to be printed by the attached printing device and the instruction to the attached printing device is unrelated to printing of data included in or attached to the received message, the attached printing device including a processor;

transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached printing device through a device driver component of the computer, if the determining step determines that the content of the received message provides the instruction to the attached printing device; and

operating the processor of the attached printing device in response to the transmitted communication.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining whether the received message includes instructions for operating the printing device or whether the received message has the user of the computer as an end recipient.

3-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving step comprises:
receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the
steps of:

receiving, by the printing device, the communication transmitted from the computer;
and

transmitting parameters from the printing device to the computer, in response to the
communication which has been received by the printing device.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the
step of:

performing a mechanical action by the printing device, in response to the
communication which has been received by the printing device.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the
determining step comprises:

determining that the message provides the instruction to the attached printing device
automatically by detecting a code within the message.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message provides the instruction to the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message provides the instruction to the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

18-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A system for processing messages, comprising:
means, associated with a computer, for receiving an electronic mail message;
means for determining ~~whether~~ which of the following mutually exclusive conditions
is true: (1) a content of the received message is ~~[[1]]~~ intended to be read or viewed by a

user, [[or]] and (2) the content of the received message provides an instruction to an attached printing device associated with the computer, by detecting a characteristic of the message, wherein the content of the received messages message does not include print data to be printed by the attached printing device and the instruction to the attached printing device is unrelated to printing of data included in or attached to the received message, the attached printing device including a processor;

means for transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached printing device through a device driver component of the computer, if the means for determining determines that the content of the received message provides the instruction to the attached printing device; and

means for operating the processor of the attached printing device in response to the transmitted communication.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining whether the received message includes instructions for operating the printing device or whether the received message has the user of the computer as an end recipient.

25-29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for receiving comprises:

means for receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 23, further comprising:
means for receiving, by the printing device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and

means for transmitting parameters from the printing device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the printing device.

33. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, further comprising:
means for performing a mechanical action by the printing device, in response to the communication which has been received by the printing device.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message provides the instruction to the attached printing device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprising:

means for determining that the message provides the instruction to the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message provides the instruction to the attached printing device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

39. (Original) A system according to claim 38, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

40-44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving data from the printing device, in response to the step of operating the processor;

creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the printing device.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the printing device at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the printing device.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:
means for receiving data from the printing device, in response to an operation of the means for operating the processor;

means for creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

means for transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

51. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:
means for executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the printing device.

52. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:

means for transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the printing device.

53. (Canceled)

54. (New) A method for receiving information of an attached business office device at a remote center through the Internet, comprising:

receiving, by a computer, the information from the attached business office device, wherein the attached business office device is attached to the computer and the information is obtained through a driver software component containing a device identification;

transforming the obtained information into a format using the device identification, for transmission by the computer;

transmitting the transformed information including the device identification to the remote center through the Internet;

receiving, at the remote center, the transformed information along with the device identification; and

extracting information from the received transformed information and storing the extracted information in a database.